

Albert Foster Dawson, Roger Leavitt, Emanuel Philip Adler, E.
Eastman Irvine

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Iowa's Notable Dead

ALBERT FOSTER DAWSON, congressman, newspaper editor and banker, died March 9, 1949, when stricken in the drawingroom of a Southern Railway train near Ludlow, approaching Cincinnati, Ohio, enroute from a St. Petersburg, Florida, hospital to one in Akron, Ohio, his home the last few years being at Highland Park, Illinois; born in Spragueville, Jackson county, Iowa, January 26, 1872; attended the common schools, the University of Wisconsin and Columbia University in New York, and later studied finance at George Washington University at Washington, D. C.; engaged in newspaper work as publisher of the *Advance* at Preston, Iowa, in 1891 and 1892; was married in 1893 in Clinton, Iowa, to Phoebe R. DeGroat; was city editor of the *Clinton Herald* from 1893 to 1894; went to Washington as secretary to Congressman Geo. M. Curtis from 1895 to 1899,, and was secretary to U. S. Sen. William B. Allison from then until 1905, when he was elected as a Republican from the second Iowa district to the Fifty-ninth, Sixtieth, and Sixty-first congresses, serving from March 4, 1905 to March 3, 1911; declined to be a candidate for the renomination in 1910, and also the appointment of private secretary to President William H. Taft tendered that year; returned to Iowa as president of the First National bank at Davenport, serving until 1928, when he became president of the investment securities house of Dawson, Howe & Dawes; during those years being popular as a community leader and World War I activities; for a time was in the brokerage business in Chicago, and served as a member of the Republican National committee; left Davenport in 1932 to accept an executive position with the Cincinnati (Ohio) Gas & Electric Co. and resided there until he retired in 1945 and removed to Highland Park; his wife having died a number of years ago, is survived by three daughters, Mrs. C. E. Fyan, Lansing, Mich., Mrs. L. L. Howe, Highland Park, Illinois, and Mrs. John K. Mason, Everett, Ohio, and two sons, Albert D., New York, and Eugene D., Nobleville, Indiana, the interment taking place at Preston, Iowa.

ROGER LEAVITT, banker, educator, historian, died at Cedar Falls, Iowa, April 3, 1949, his death preceded by a broken hip the previous Saturday morning; born at Waterloo, Iowa, June 25, 1860, the son of John H. Leavitt, pioneer money lender and financier, who came there from Massachusetts in 1856; rather than continue in the backward Waterloo schools of that period he tells

in his memoirs that in 1876 he was sent to Beloit college, Beloit, Wisconsin, where he spent two years in preparatory study and four years in the college division, graduating in 1882 and immediately thereafter entered the banking office of his father; took a post graduate course at Yale, at New Haven, Conn., in 1885, returning to Grundy Center, Iowa, became cashier of the Grundy Center National bank, where he remained until the spring of 1888, when he moved to Cedar Falls and became the first cashier of the Cedar Falls National bank, with which he was connected so many years; retired from business activities several years since but continued to hold directorates and offices, particularly vice president of the Cedar Falls National Trust and Savings bank, vice president of the Cedar Falls National company, treasurer of Townsend and Merrill Lumber company, and treasurer of the Cedar Valley Building and Loan association, which he helped to organize in 1890.

Following the removal of the Soldiers Orphans Home to Davenport he helped organize a school in the vacated buildings, which became the State Normal School, and throughout his life was its supporter, being appointed in 1900 as a member of the board of trustees, and when State Board of Education was established as the governing head of all state educational institutions, he was appointed by the governor as a member, serving as such for many years; served also as a member of the trustees of Grinnell college from 1903 to 1921, a trustee of his alma mater, Beloit college for a number of years following 1923, and a member of the board of directors of the Chicago Theological seminary from 1910 to 1920; always in the forefront of religious activities he taught a Sunday school class the most of the years of his adult life and represented the Congregational church at state and national conventions and Y. M. C. A.; intensely interested in local history, being in demand both as a writer and speaker on historical topics; married Alice Winsor, daughter of a pioneer Cedar Falls Congregational minister in 1885, and she died in 1890; two years later married Catherine Townsend, daughter of one of the founders of the Townsend-Merrill Lumber company, who also died, and in 1925 Mr. Leavitt married Mary Larson, who passed away about three years ago; survived by four sons and two daughters, and leaves two sisters residing at Waterloo.

EMANUEL PHILIP ADLER, publisher and philanthropist, died at Davenport, Iowa, March 2, 1949; born in Chicago, Illinois, Sept. 30, 1872, son of Philip Emanuel and Bertha Blade Adler; moved with parents to Ottumwa, Iowa, when a small boy, and at age of thirteen started to work as an apprentice in a printing office,

receiving his card in the typographical union when he was seventeen, working "at the case" before the modern typesetting machines were in use; became a reporter upon the *Ottumwa Courier* in 1893, and in turn served as city editor, managing editor and business manager upon that paper; removed to Davenport in 1901 and took over the active management of the *Times*; succeeded the late A. W. Lee as head of the Lee Syndicate of newspapers upon his death in England in July 1907, becoming president of individual publishing companies operating the several papers; married Lena Rothchild of Davenport on February 5, 1902; engaged in politics as a member of the Republican party and long was influential in state affairs; became a vice president of the Associated Press, president of the Inland Daily Press association, and served as secretary of the Iowa Republican State committee in 1910-12; was a trustee of the Friendly House at Davenport, trustee of the Davenport Municipal Art Gallery and Museum and of Saint Luke's hospital, and chairman of the Davenport chapter of Red Cross; was one of the organizers of the Greater Davenport committee and a member of the Davenport Industrial commission; became the recipient in 1948 of the first annual award of the University of Minnesota for distinguished service to journalism; was beloved for his many charities and dynamic leadership in civic activities; surviving are his son Philip D. Adler, publisher of the *Star Courier* at Kewanee, Illinois; his wife, the former Henrietta Bondi of Galesburg, Illinois, and their daughter Betty Adler, now a student at the University of Illinois.

E. EASTMAN IRVINE, editor *World Almanac* and newspaperman, died September 23, 1948, at Donagan Hills station, New Jersey, having left his Staten Island home as usual on his morning trip to his office in the *New York World-Herald* building, becoming ill on the train; born in 1884 at Cresco, Iowa, and went to New York in 1914; worked on the *New York Press*, the *World*, the *Sun*, the *Evening Telegram* and the *World-Telegram*; also previously managing editor of the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, and immediately prior to appointment to the *World Almanac* position which he has held for eleven years, was chief of the copy desk of the *World-Telegram*, which publishes the almanac; survived by his wife, Margaret.

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